

### **Study #13: The New Church**

This final, concluding chapter begins by touching on some basics of the new Christian life. Then it turns to a sketch of the new church, suggesting what the result of Hebrews' grand theological thesis will look like worked out on the ground.

*Read Hebrews 13:1-6*

1. Verses 1-3 begin with a general statement about love, then mention specific types of people to love. Why do strangers, prisoners, and those mistreated need special mention?
2. What does verse 3 suggest about the kind of persecution the Hebrews experienced?
3. Verses 4-6 go on to warn against two specific temptations: adultery and greed. Why these?
4. How do the Old Testament verses quoted work against these temptations?

*Read Hebrews 13:7-17*

5. This passage begins and ends with support for the church's leaders, and verse 7 particularly urges the Hebrews to ponder and to imitate their faith. Compared to the great heroes of chapter 11, what do these leaders have to offer?
6. Do you feel you live up to these admonitions with your own church leaders? Why or why not?
7. Verse 9 suggests what foundation a church should build on, and what foundations *not* to build on. What are they, and what do they look like in action?
8. Verses 10-14 propose Christianity as an outsider religion. What makes it so?
9. What is our status in this world? Do we belong? Does Jesus?
10. How does this outsider status affect our interactions in the here and now?
11. In this new religion of Christianity, what sacrifices should be made?

*Read Hebrews 13:18-25*

12. Only in these final verses do we see the author as a real person who knows the Hebrews personally. What do you learn about their relationship?
13. Verses 20-21 are famous as a benediction. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

## Hebrews 13:1-6 New International Version

### Concluding Exhortations

13 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. 3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”[a]

6 So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”[b]

### Footnotes

Hebrews 13:5 Deut. 31:6

Hebrews 13:6 Psalm 118:6,7

## Hebrews 13:7-17 New International Version

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. 10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. 12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

## Hebrews 13:18-25 New International Version

18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.

19 I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

### Benediction and Final Greetings

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for in fact I have written to you quite briefly.

23 I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

24 Greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

25 Grace be with you all.